



**Student Government Association**  
General Meeting  
**Tuesday, October 7, 2025**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Peter T. Mazza Student Government Association Room  
Ely Campus Center

A livestream of the meeting for public viewing took place on YouTube.

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Members Present: Justin Wald, Travis McLoughlin, Melissa Kuzmeski, Zeke Tamarkin, Tyler King, Jacob Constant, Barney Garcia, Jakob Traynor, Brenna Guliani, Luke Stehley, Ali Sutherland, Matthew Crusha, Christopher Lannan, Zara Rivett, Megan Fran, Grant Wenhart, Cole Dos Santos, Alyssa Hanafin, Kayleigh Afonso, Fabian Morales, Ethan Haynes, Maria Renta-Marrero, Angelina Cassella, Celia Rocino, Lorraine Fernández, Raymond Croteau, Raul Rosario, Adian Gomez, Karlie Beamenderfer, Aviannah-Leigh Saulters

Members Excused: Dianyeliz Ozuna Sandoval

Members Absent: Will Onorato, Ethan Haynes

Also present and participating was Associate Director of S.A.I.L. Ashley Ewick.

Call to Order: President Justin Wald called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. It was announced that the meeting was being live streamed and recorded. Members were asked to review the meeting agenda, and a roll call was taken of members present (listed above).

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting, were approved.

President's Report: Justin Wald began by welcoming the guest speaker, Dr. Kevin Hearn, before delivering his report, which focused on a major initiative to address deferred maintenance on campus. He detailed his collaboration with Barney Garcia and Attorney Melinda Phelps to advocate for the passage of the state-level BRIGHT Act, explaining that this legislation is the only viable way to fund critical repairs for campus buildings like Bates, Wilson, and the closed Lammers Hall. Wald outlined their strategic plan, which designates responsibilities for external university outreach, government relations, and internal campus education, and stated that they are awaiting a response from the Governor's office to move forward. He concluded his report with a housekeeping update, reminding senators that they should have been contacted for their team huddles and that it is now time for them to select their two required committees for the year.

**MOTION** seconded by Barney Garcia, to appoint Aidan Gomez and Karlie Beamenderfer as members of Senate.

There being no discussion, **VOICE VOTE** passed.

Guest Speaker: Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing and Student Affairs Dr. Kevin Hearn gave a presentation about his department and just EMMSA. He talked about what the Enrollment management means in his roll specifically recruit and admit (admissions) of students. Marketing for the brand of Westfield State. Then student affairs which is responsible for supporting students personal, and extra-curricular education and

\* Missed First Roll Call

\*\* Missed Second Roll Call

development. EMMSA is responsible for building brand awareness and affinity, collaboration between critical areas, creating integrated and progressive policies, procedures and practices which support student learning then going into the campus culture. Then goes into the current challenges that Higher Education is facing. Then goes into what is the current opportunities, for example brand awareness, new curricular changes to better prepare our students/graduates, increase in career-ready promotions, programs and practices, and a bunch of new strategies such as the strategic plan and the master plan. Then explains how we can help as students. Focusing on getting more involved, being a brand champion, and embracing the 3Cs (communicate, collaborate, and celebrate).

- Zara Rivett asked to explain more about the strategic plan.
  - Dr. Hearn explains that there is only 1 strategic plan and we should focus on the student success.
- Travis McLoughlin asked about what we are doing as an institution to make sure we are retaining the new students.
  - Dr. Hearn explains that we have our Academic Advisors to help, Faculty and Faculty training and different student services and a great safety net. However, he explains that they are not perfect and communicate and ask as many questions as possible.
- Christopher Lannan encourages everyone to listen to his words and know when to ask things and know what to do with them. Then asking about talking about the strategic enrollment plan.
  - Dr. Hearn explains that they are developing the Strategic Enrollment plan to have a compass point about what we are looking towards in the future, talking about possibly the chairs in the dining hall, beds in the residential halls, and so much more.

Vice President of Student Life Report: Travis McLoughlin began his report by urging students to complete the Healthy Minds Survey, a brief questionnaire on mental health that was sent out via email and is open until Friday, October 17th; he noted that completing it helps the university and enters participants into a prize raffle. He then announced openings on two committees, advertising two available seats on the Student Affairs committee, which handles general student life projects, and six seats on the Committee on Club Relations and Programming Strategy, which works to improve campus event attendance and effectiveness. McLoughlin instructed any senators interested in joining either committee to speak with a member of the executive council.

University Curriculum Committee: Melissa Kuzmeski reported on the October 3rd University Curriculum Committee meeting, which approved numerous academic proposals. The committee passed revisions for several nursing courses to broaden their focus from nursing-only to generalized healthcare and approved a new online Bachelor's program in Healthcare Innovation and Leadership, while tabling one course for a future meeting. A new WISE-inclusive sociology course, 'Making Sense of Human Grouping,' was also approved pending minor revisions. For the education department, the committee passed revisions to one course to meet WISE guidelines and approved proposals to change the credit structure of two other courses, combining them for student convenience. Kuzmeski concluded by announcing the next UCC meeting will be held on Friday, October 17th.

Academic Policy Committee: Justin Wald delivered a serious report concerning a conflict with the Academic Policies Committee (APC) over a recently distributed survey on the Common Hour. He stated that the APC had sent the survey to faculty and staff using SGA's name without their final approval, directly contradicting prior agreements to secure the new executive board's consent. Wald explained that after SGA submitted their revisions, the APC dismissed their feedback and distributed an older version, falsely claiming it had been approved by the previous year's executive council. He reported that he and Zeke Tamarkin attended the APC meeting on Friday to correct the record, where he confirmed firsthand that no such approval was ever given. Wald concluded by stating this disregard for the student voice was unacceptable and reaffirmed his commitment to protecting student input within the university's shared governance.

Vice President of Student Belonging Report: Lorraine Fernández reported that she is currently collecting availabilities to schedule the first meeting for the Committee on Belonging and asked members to respond to her email promptly. She then shared updates from the Interfaith Advisory Council meeting she attended on Monday, where she successfully recruited two new students from faith-based organizations to join her committee. Also at that

meeting, plans were discussed for a collaborative, SGA-wide volunteer trip with the Veterans and Military Services Office to the Westfield Soup Kitchen, which is scheduled for Friday, November 7th. Fernández is taking the lead on this initiative and strongly encouraged all senators to participate, promising more details once logistics are finalized.

- Justin Wald explained that the soup trip is a great way to start off your community engagement hours.

Vice President of Community Engagement Report: Tyler King introduced himself and gave a bit of background about himself and the roles he is a part of. Then gave the Senator of the Month award to Christopher Lannan.

Campus Activities Board Report: Matt Crusha reported that the Campus Activities Board (CAB) has had a very successful start to the semester, hosting major events for Family Weekend and the Big E Trip and achieving record attendance numbers in September. He announced that popular programs like Bingo, Trivia, and Open Mic Night will now be held monthly, and that CAB is seeking to collaborate with other student organizations on them. Crusha promoted upcoming events, including a trivia night this evening at 7 PM and free acai bowls in the Dunkin' lounge this Friday at 1 PM, and also mentioned that committees are busy planning for Fall Fest weekend. He concluded by inviting interested students to join CAB at their weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM and encouraged clubs seeking collaboration to reach out.

- Travis McLoughlin explained that Matt also serves on his committee of the Club Relations and Programming Strategy

Representative at Large Report: Chris Lannan delivered a report on behalf of the Representative at Large committee, explaining that their role is to represent 500 individual students and serve as a voice for the student body. He outlined the committee's two key initiatives for the year: collaborating with the executive council to improve senator retention and making the expansion of campus mental health resources a core focus of their work. Lannan then introduced the members of the committee, including sophomore Angelina, junior Zara, new junior senator Meg, and himself. He concluded with an inspirational message, encouraging all senators to find their voice and work together to create meaningful change

Announcements: The following announcements were made:

- Tyler King wanted to point out to sign the anti-hazing banner found in the back of the room.
- Zeke Tamarkin explained that the Finance Committee and Rules and Regulations Committee are still looking for members.
- Melissa Kuzmeski explained that next Wednesday is their event Express and Decompress.
- Travis McLoughlin asked to see the Rep's at Large after the meeting.
- Christopher Lannan asked to clarify the number of positions available on the committees for Finance Committee and Rules and Regulations, then stated there are 219 days till commencement.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Justin Wald adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

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### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Student Government Association (SGA) general meeting held on October 7, 2025.

**Executive Secretary Jacob Constant**

